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Filed : June 23, 2003

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the examiner rejected Claims 1 to 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kadaba et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,088,649).

The cited Kadaba et al. reference discloses a navigation system that aims to provide techniques by which a user can get into a desired entry in a large list without having to traverse all of the entry. In order to achieve this objective, the cited Kadaba et al. reference proposes a vehicle navigation system having a user interface to prompt the user to select a particular location according to city or intersection. The cited Kadaba et al. reference provides a section that has a list of entries and another section where the user provides an input. From among the list of entries, the user can shift out irrelevant entries from the list by narrowing down possible entries through the user's input. It should be noted that the cited Kadaba et al. reference shows a method for determining an address of the destination by selecting a street name, address number, and city name from the lists,

The present invention, on the other hand, aims to provide an efficient way of point of interest (POI) search method to retrieve desired POIs located along a particular street. As is well known in the art, information on points of interest (POI) in a navigation system is created based on business directories and the like. The POI data is comprised of a large number of place names and place types (categories and subcategories). The point of interest search

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allows the user to select a destination either by a place type or a place name. Thus, unlike the "Address" input method such as shown in Figures 8A, 9A, 10A, etc., the POI search does not need to input an address of a particular destination.

Such utilization of POI is effective because a user often does not know an address of the destination or does not have a particular destination in mind when he searches for a location. For instance, the user may search a fast-food restaurant, which can be any fast-food restaurant rather than a particular restaurant. The POI search method is effective in retrieving a particular type of POIs on the street he is driving now or going to drive later.

In the present invention, the POIs are listed to allow the user to select any of the listed POIs. For instance, when the user knows that he will be driving through "Van Buren Avenue" and wants to find a fast-food restaurant along the street, the navigation system of the present invention lists fast-food restaurant entries located along Van Buren Avenue.

Thus, the main difference of the present invention resides in the fact that the present invention uses the concept of POI search to help the user in finding a desired type or name of POIs located along a specified street. In contrast, the selection method of the cited Kadaba et al. reference is to determine an address of the destination by selecting an address number, a street name, and a city name in a step by step basis. In other words, in the method of Kadaba et al., a user has to know the entire address of the

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destination, while in the method of the present invention, a user needs to specify only a street name.

Thus, the cited Kadaba et al. reference does not disclose the concept of point of interest (POI) of the present invention. Moreover, the cited Kadaba et al. reference does not disclose a navigation system that retrieves POIs located along a specified street or a part of the specified street. The cited Kadaba et al. reference provides a navigation system to find a particular address by selecting an address from a list, but it does not show the method for listing POIs along a specified street.

Applicant has amended the claims to more clearly distinguish the present invention by pointing out that the point of interest (POI) database is comprised of place types (categories and subcategories) and place names. Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is no longer applicable to the present invention.

In the Office Action, Examiner rejected Claims 1 to 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yokota (U.S. Patent No. 6,687,613). The cited Yokota reference shows a method which aims to provide favorite places when the user is in a distant area. In the case where a user's home area is San Francisco, but the user is now driving a car in Los Angeles area, he cannot use the information in the "Address Book" because the information in the address book is ordinarily limited to the places in the home area. Yokota attempts to solve this problem by providing a preferred list, which is a type of POI that can be used anywhere. Typically,

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a user wants to go to a branch office of his bank, a favorite restaurant chain, hotel or supermarket with membership benefits and the like when he is far away from the home area. In the method of the cited Yokota reference, a favorite POI list is created in the navigation system in advance, and is displayed when the user activates this function in the remote area.

It should be noted that the cited Yokota reference does not disclose a navigation system that retrieves POIs that are located along a specified street or along a part of the specified street. The navigation system of the cited Yokota reference provides a navigation system that finds a favorite POI close to the present location, but it does not search the POIs along a specified street. Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is no longer applicable to the present invention.

In view of the foregoing, the applicant believes that Claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the present application be allowed and passed to issue.

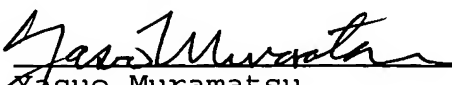
Respectfully submitted,

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